

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated November 24, 2003, the Examiner set forth the requirement that the Applicant elect a species pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 as the single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Pursuant to the Examiner's request, Applicant elects Group I, Species I (which encompasses Figs. 1-3A, 4A and 4B) as the single disclosed species for prosecution. The following claims are encompassed by Group I, Species I: Claims 1-6, 13-21, 26-36, 43-47, 53, 54, and 56-58. At least Claim 1 is a generic claim. Various other claims of the application are also generic. Remaining claims 7-12, 22-25, 37-42, 48-52, and 55 are withdrawn from consideration pending allowance of a generic claim pertaining thereto.

Conclusion

In view of the above Amendments and Remarks, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance, and seeks early indication of the same. If the Examiner requires further information with respect to this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at (847) 537-3537 for a telephonic interview.

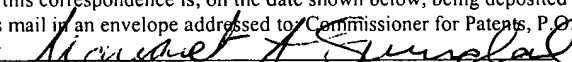
Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 5, 2004

By: 

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 C.F.R. § 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is, on the date shown below, being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 5, 2004 by 

Margaret A. Swindal